

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



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In the Matter of the Application of Southern
California Edison Company (U338E) for a
Permit to Construct Electrical Substation
Facilities with Voltage over 50 kV: Mesa 500
kV Substation Project

Application 15-03-003
(Filed March 13, 2015)

**MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT
SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION**

Pursuant to Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure 1.4(a)(4) and 11.1, the California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) hereby moves for leave to become a party to this proceeding.

The CAISO is a California not for profit public benefit corporation charged with reliably planning and operating the high voltage transmission system for its participating transmission owners, including Southern California Edison Company (SCE). The CAISO has been an active participant in many Commission proceedings, including previous applications to construct CAISO-approved transmission projects.

In this proceeding, SCE requests a permit to construct (PTC) the Mesa 500 kV Substation Project (Mesa Loop-In Project). The CAISO Board of Governors approved the Mesa Loop-In Project as a necessary addition to the CAISO Controlled Grid to: (1) address loading concerns identified in the CAISO's reliability assessment results; (2) alleviate the increased overall loading on transmission facilities in the Los Angeles metro area resulting from the retirement of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and once-through-cooled generation as well as long term load growth in the area; and (3) reduce the amount of local capacity needed to replace retired generation. Because the CAISO approved the Mesa Loop-In Project and SCE will turn the transmission facilities associated with the project over to the CAISO's operational control, the CAISO is uniquely situated to address issues associated with the project and electric system needs.

In the present circumstance, the CAISO is particularly concerned about the timing of the Commission's review and SCE's projected in-service date for the Mesa Loop-In Project. The CAISO identified the Mesa Loop-In Project as necessary in part to address compliance with the

State Water Resource Control Board's policy on the use of once-through-cooling technology in electric generation facilities. Pursuant to that policy, significant amounts of gas-fired electric generation in Southern California are expected to retire by the end of 2020. The Mesa Loop-In Project was identified as necessary to preserve electric reliability in the area in light of these planned retirements. If the Mesa Loop-In Project is delayed past the 2020 timeframe, additional mitigation measures may be required maintain electric reliability in Southern California. The CAISO intends to present legal and factual contentions regarding the feasibility of identified project alternatives, especially in light of the timing considerations discussed above.

The CAISO requests that all correspondence, pleadings, notices, orders, rulings and other communications concerning this proceeding be provided to the following:

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For the reasons stated above, the CAISO asks that the Commission grant its motion for party status.

Respectfully submitted,
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